

Timely Tidbits ...

Halloween Happenings

Check out our list of the area's most spooktacular haunted houses and monster mazes (page 3). Other local holiday events can be found in the Community Calendar (page 9).

District To Host Meeting About Ballot Proposals

Taxpayers who would like to learn more about the Romulus Community Schools' millage proposals on the November 4 ballot are invited to attend an informational meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 20, at the Gateway Club House (33290 Gateway Drive).

Board of Education members will be present to answer questions.

Senior Activity Cards

The City of Taylor is offering its senior citizens (age 55 and older) a Senior Activity Card, which entitles holders to free year-round swimming at City pools, free use of the Taylor Recreation Center, and other discount services. The card – available at the Parks and Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road) – is \$25.

For details, call 734-374-3906.

Child Fingerprinting

Meet Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert and hometown heroes from the police and fire departments when Public Service Credit Union (7665 Merriman Road) hosts a Child Safety Day program on Saturday, November 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Highlights of the free event will include child fingerprinting and a 2009 calendar coloring contest.

For details, call 734-641-8400.

Grand Reopening

Pick up health and weight-loss tips at True Health Chiropractic (9340 Wayne Road, Suite 100, Romulus) on Wednesday, October 29, when the clinic will host a grand reopening from noon to 6 p.m.

Highlights of the free event will include chair massages, delicious treats provided by Beirut Restaurant (7650 Merriman Road, Romulus) and a movie "starring" the Romulus chiropractic community.

For details, call 734-941-2211.

Taylor Named "Clean City of the Year" for Green Initiatives

The City of Taylor has received the 2008 Clean City of the Year Award, which salutes a city's "commitment to clean transportation solutions." The honor – presented during the recent Michigan Clean Transportation and Awards Gala at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi – recognizes a community's usage of alternative fuels, alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles, and fuel economy practices or idle reduction policies.

During the inaugural event, awards were presented in 10 different categories. Taylor and Ann Arbor were the only two cities honored with a Clean City of the Year Award. Both were recognized for being among the first communities in southeast Michigan to implement green initiatives.

The City of Taylor was recognized for incorporating natural gas vehicles into its fleet and the use of four hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in a partnership with Ford Motor Company. The City's diesel fleet also runs on B5 biodiesel. Taylor currently has 16 alternative-fuel vehicles. To date, the City has reportedly reduced greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 290 tons of CO₂ every year.

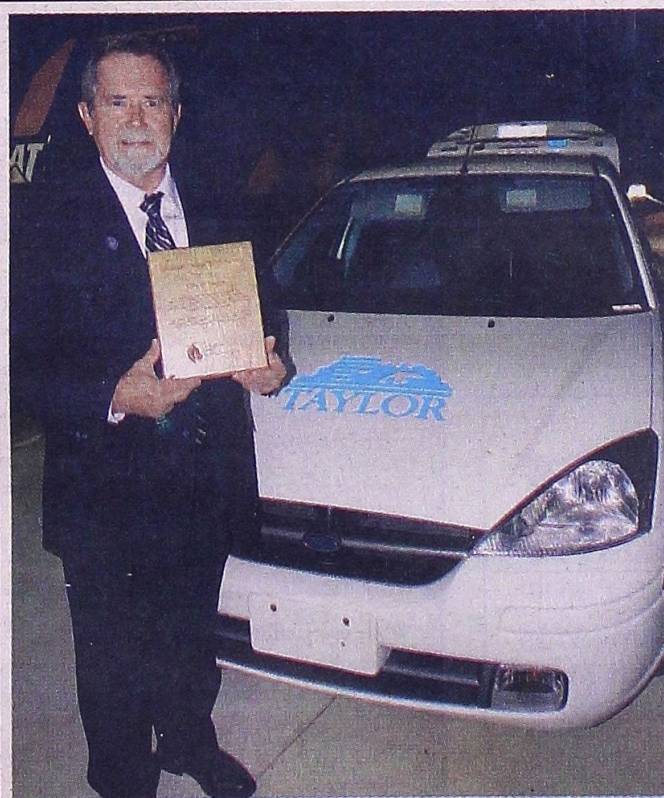
"It is great to be recognized for our progress," said Bob Mach, superintendent of vehicle maintenance in the City of Taylor Department of Public Works. "We work hard to reduce our carbon footprint on the environment."

Mach said the City also is in the process of adding two hybrid vehicles to the fleet to further reduce gas emissions.

Sean Reed, executive director of the Clean Energy Coalition, presented the Clean City awards.

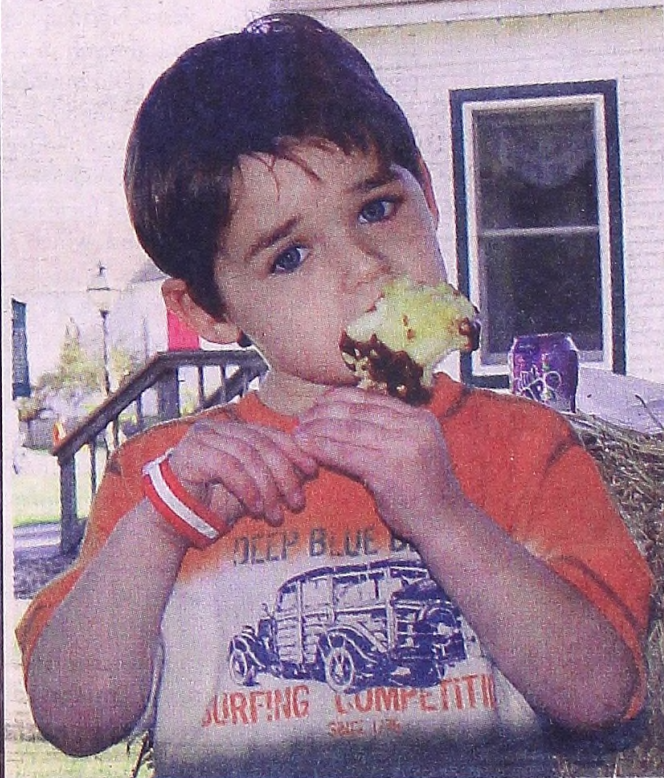
"The City of Taylor should be commended for leading the way for implementing innovative solutions and clean technology to vehicle fleets," he said.

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Bob Mach, supervisor of the Department of Public Works, proudly displayed Taylor's "Clean City of the Year" award. The Ford Focus behind him is one of four City vehicles powered by hydrogen fuel cells. *Photo by Dave Gorgon*

Annual Taylor Fun Fest Offered Taste of Fall's Sweet Bounty



Three-and-a-half-year-old Noah McWhorter of Taylor savored every bite of his caramel apple during his hometown's annual Fall Fun Fest, held October 11 at Heritage Park. *For more photos (all by Dave Gorgon), see page 7.*

Cory Students Make a Difference

How much good can you do in one day? That's the question being asked of students and teachers in Romulus as part of a "One Day" serv-a-thon created by The LEAGUE, a school- and Web-based youth-service organization.

Now in its second year, the not-for-profit group encourages students to make a positive difference in their communities while developing skills of leadership and good character.

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Pitching in for a one-day cleanup program at Cory Elementary School in Romulus were: (from left) Byron Bradley, Shauna Douglas (parent), Mariah Nelson, Destiny Leach, Gayle Milspaugh (teacher), and Deborah Bland.

Guest Commentary

Voters Urged To Support School Proposals

By Carl J. Weiss, Superintendent, Romulus Community Schools

This November, in addition to voting for the next president of the United States, Romulus community residents will have an opportunity to support our school district **without increasing their property taxes.**

Voters will see two ballot proposals that, if approved, will greatly assist our school district by providing additional revenue to be earmarked for maintaining and updating our physical facilities. Specifically, this money will be used for things like roof repairs, paving of parking lots and drive-ways, purchase of energy-efficient heating and cooling management systems, security system upgrades, and other capital outlay expenditures that are necessary to provide a safe and secure environment for our children to learn.

The first ballot proposal, if approved, will restore the non-homestead tax back to 18 mills. All school districts in the state of Michigan are funded in part by an 18-mill tax that is levied only on non-homestead property (i.e., businesses, apartments, rental property, and other nonresidential properties). **Homeowners do not pay this tax.** However, the tax must be periodically renewed by voters to prevent inflationary reductions that decrease the rate of the tax. This tax was last restored in Romulus in 1999. Because this tax is currently assessed at 17.5 mills, we are asking that the voters restore it back to the full 18 mills. Approval of this proposal will result in approximately \$350,000 of additional revenue per year to the Romulus Community Schools. **This proposal will not increase the amount of taxes to Romulus homeowners.**

The second ballot proposal asks voters to approve the establishment of a sinking fund. This is a fund for capital outlay items such as roofing, heating and cooling equipment, parking lots and sidewalks, technology infrastructure, and security infrastructure. This sinking fund will provide a steady flow of revenue that is necessary to main-

tain our physical facilities at the level that our community has come to expect. Note: sinking fund money may NOT be used for textbooks, school buses, salaries, or additional staff. The Romulus Community Schools will be asking voters to approve a 0.75-mill sinking fund for a period of ten years. Normally, approval of a sinking fund would result in a tax increase to both residents and business owners; however, if the sinking fund is approved, our board of education will reduce the debt retirement tax by 0.75 mills (the same amount of the sinking fund increase) over the life of the sinking fund, which will eliminate an increase in taxes. If approved, this will generate approximately \$1,000,000 in revenue to the school district. **Approval of the sinking fund will not increase the amount of taxes to Romulus residents or businesses.**

Anyone interested in obtaining additional information regarding the ballot proposals may stop by our administrative office at 36540 Grant Road to obtain a question-and-answer brochure, or contact us directly at 734-532-1610.

Although our state and community are experiencing financial challenges, we must not forget that the heart of every community is its public school system. Our board of education is committed to maintaining our school district at a level that will prepare our children for a promising future without increasing taxes to our residents. **Both proposals are tax neutral for homeowners; thus, your property taxes will not go up if they are approved, and your property taxes will not go down if they are not approved.**

As superintendent of schools, I urge you to vote "yes" on these two proposals.

* * *

The "Guest Commentary" column is open to all responsible individuals and spokespersons who would like to share information that is of interest to our readers. For more information, contact Kristi Stephens, editor, at 734-941-1907. □

Letters to the Editor

Thief Chided; City-Axiom Ties Questioned

To the Editor:

At the September 22, 2008 meeting of the Romulus City Council, Councilperson Ellen Craig-Bragg thanked the Romulus Police Department and Axiom for a safe Pumpkin Festival.

Wondering what Axiom was, I did a little research and discovered that this security company is partially owned by Mayor Alan Lambert's fiancée of seven years, Diane Banks. I also learned that Axiom does security work for Pinnacle Race Course, the Romulus Athletic Club, and other companies that have City Hall ties. It seems to me that companies like these would not normally use such a novice security firm.

What's next? Axiom doing security for the Romulus Community Schools? After all, as a past member of the Board of Education, Mayor Lambert still has some influence, I'm sure.

Hoping that people will pull their heads out of the sand!

Andrew Lovenduski
Romulus

* * *

To the Editor:

This letter is expressly directed to the person or persons who stole McCain/Palin signs from Romulus yards in the middle of the night of October 9/10.

If you have any character at all, you will return the property you stole.

Midge Prybyla
Romulus

* * *

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether they are printed.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity, content, and brevity.

As always, opinions expressed in "Letters to the Editor" are not necessarily shared by the staff of the little paper. □

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HALLOWEEN

Safety Tips



FOR KIDS

- Trick-or-Treat before dark.
- Be cautious of animals & strangers.
- Carry a flashlight so you can see & be seen easily.
- Visit homes that you know & that have the porch light on.
- A face mask may obstruct your vision; use makeup instead.
- Accept your treats at the door & never go into a stranger's house.
- Wear a costume that makes it easy for you to walk, see, & be seen.
- Plan your Trick-or-Treat route ahead of time. Pick streets that are well lit.
- Trick-or-Treat with a parent, older brother, sister, or friends. Never travel alone.
- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars or in the middle of the block.
- Walk, slither, & sneak on sidewalks; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Keep away from open fires & candles. (Keep in mind that costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. Don't eat candy if the package is open.
- Look LEFT, RIGHT, then LEFT AGAIN before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, & low-flying brooms. Cross *only* at corners.
- Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (Remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, & brooms, too!)

FOR PARENTS

- Child should know his/her phone number & address.
- Dress children in shoes that fit. Large-size shoes make it easier to trip & fall.
- Limit the use of "weapons" as part of the costume. If you allow a weapon, be sure it is soft & flexible.
- When you inspect the treats, be sure they have not been tampered with & are safely sealed. Be careful with fruit, as punctures are easily missed.

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Area's Halloween Happenings Offer Frightfully Good Fun for All Ages

This sampling of the area's Halloween season events runs the gamut from family fun to heart-stopping horror. (Note: Some attractions are offered on a weather-permitting basis, and many are not suitable for young children. If in doubt, call ahead to check.)

HAUNTED HILL ACRES (Belleville)

Features a haunted hayride, pirate ship, port town of tortures, house of monsters, and pyramid maze.

- Admission: varies per event (\$4 to \$8); package and group discounts available
- Dates: every Fri.-Sun. in Oct.
- Hours: ticket office opens at 7 p.m.
- Location: 23740 Carleton West Road
- Information: 734-753-5523, 734-652-7601, 734-624-4915, or www.hauntedhillacres.com

HAUNTED HAYRIDES & CORN MAZE (Belleville)

The Wayne County Fair Association's holiday program features a haunted hayride through the fairgrounds' 39 acres and a "nonhaunted" corn maze. New this year: a Toxic Waste Zone.

- Hayride Admission: \$14 for adults Oct. 17-18; \$15 for adults Oct. 24-25; kids 6-11 always \$8; kids 5 & under free, but not recommended
- Hayride Dates/Hours: Oct. 17-18 & 24-25, dusk to midnight
- Corn Maze Admission: \$6 afternoons (\$3 for age 5 & under); \$8 evenings (\$3 for age 5 & under)
- Corn Maze Dates/Hours: noon-6 p.m. each Sat.-Sun. in Oct., dusk-11 p.m. each Fri.-Sat.
- Location: Wayne County Fairgrounds (10871 Quirk Road)
- Information: 734-697-7002 or www.waynecountyfair.net

HALLOWE'EN IN GREENFIELD VILLAGE (Dearborn)

Circa 1900-style family fun features paths lit by hundreds of hand-carved jack-o'-lanterns, dozens of elaborately costumed creatures, and 11 "sweets-and-treats" stations where goblins hand out goodies.

- Admission: member adults & kids, \$12.75; nonmember adults & kids, \$15; kids 2 & under, free
- Dates: Oct. 17-19 & 24-26
- Hours: entry timed at half-hour intervals from 6:30-9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6:30-8 p.m. Sun.
- Location: corner of Village Road and Oakwood Boulevard (west of Southfield Freeway and south of Michigan Avenue)
- Information: 313-982-6001 or www.hfmgv.org

SCAREGROUNDS AT THE FAIRGROUNDS (Detroit)

Features a haunted house, concession food, covered waiting area, and free lighted, secure parking.

- Admission: \$13
- Dates: Oct. 17-19 & 23-31

- Hours: Sun.-Thurs., 6-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 6-11 p.m.; Oct. 31 (Halloween Party), 6 p.m.-midnight
- Location: Michigan State Fairgrounds (Woodward entrance)
- Information: 313-336-FEAR (3327) or www.scaregrounds.org

HAUNTED WINERY (Farmington)

Ghoulish creatures haunt 27 rooms! Don't get trapped in the hidden rooms!

- Admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children under 52 inches (not recommended for young children); "family night" rates (\$20 for 2 adults & 2 kids) on Thurs. & Sun.
- Dates: Oct. 17-19, 24-26, 30-31, & Nov. 1
- Hours: Sun. & Thurs., 7-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m.-midnight
- Location: 31505 Grand River (just west of Orchard Lake Road)
- Information: 248-477-8833 or www.thehauntedwinery.com

THE LAB (Grosse Ile)

Something went terribly wrong in a secret, government-funded research lab! Your mission: go in, find out what happened, and discover who (or what) is left inside!

- Admission: \$12
- Dates: Oct. 16-19, 23-26, 30-31, and Nov. 1
- Hours: Sun.-Thurs., 7-11 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.-midnight
- Location: 26505 Horner
- Information: 586-879-0886 or www.thelabhaunt.com

PHANTOM FOREST HAYRIDES (Grosse Ile)

Family fun event includes hayrides through haunted woods (new scenes every year) plus donuts & cider by a bonfire.

- Admission: \$8 per person; \$5 for kids 5 & under
- Dates: Oct. 17-19, 24-26, & 30-31
- Hours: Fri.-Sat., 7-11 p.m.; Sun. & Oct. 31, 7-10 p.m.
- Location: Westcroft Gardens (21803 West River Road)
- Information: 734-676-2444

REALM OF HAUNTED MINDS (Huron Township)

Come and experience the paranormal ... if you dare! The screams you hear may be your own!

- Admission: \$10 per person
- Dates: Oct. 17-18, 24-25, & 30
- Hours: 7:30-10:30 p.m.
- Location: Huron Turkey Farm (18910 Merriman Road, between Pennsylvania and Sibley)
- Information: 734-753-9187 or www.myspace.com/huronturkeyfarm

THE SCREAM MACHINE/ CARNEVIL OF LOST SOULS in 3D (Taylor)

Highlights include "The Hellevator": a portal to the unknown!

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Halloween Happenings

continued from page 3

- Admission: \$15 for Scream Machine; \$18 for combo Scream Machine/Carnevil of Lost Souls in 3-D
- Dates: every day through Nov. 2
- Hours: Sun.-Thurs., 7-11 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.-midnight
- Location: 21207 Eureka (in the shopping plaza next to Gibraltar Trading Center)
- Information: 734-341-3379 or www.fearscapestudios.com

EXTREME SCREAM (Taylor)

Haunts Reunited wants to blow your mind with its signature, old-school-style haunted house! Haunts change every year. All concession-stand proceeds go to Boy Scouts Troop #825.

- Admission: \$12 for adults; \$8 for children under 48"
- Dates: Oct. 17-19 & Oct. 22-Nov. 1
- Hours: Sun.-Thurs., 7-11 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.-midnight
- Location: 7868 Telegraph Road (south of I-94)

HAUNTED HALLOWS (Westland)

Hayrides (ride halfway, walk the rest ... if you dare!), a fire pit, and a concession stand are among the acres of spooky attractions.

- Admission: \$15 per person (all ages)
- Dates/Hours: Oct. 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, & Nov. 1, dusk-midnight; Oct. 19, 26, 30, & Nov. 2, dusk-11 p.m.
- Location: 6440 Hix Road (between Ford & Warren)

- Information: 734-751-4312 or www.haunted-hallows.com

HAUNTED HOUSE (Westland)

This seventh annual event is sponsored by the Westland Jaycees.

- Admission: \$8 for adults; \$6 for children 13 and under
- Dates/Hours: Oct. 17-18 & 24-25, 7-midnight; Oct. 26-30, 7-10 p.m.
- Location: 1645 Wayne Road (one block south of Ford, behind the Wayne Ford Civic League)
- Information: 734-226-0400

THE PUMPKIN FACTORY (Willis)

Features haunted hayrides, plus thousands of pumpkins, cider, donuts, caramel apples, costumes, and masks for sale.

- Dates: every Fri.-Sun.
- Hours: Fri.-Sat., 7-10 p.m.; Sun., 7-9 p.m.
- Location: Harris Road (west of Sumpter Road, south of the town of Belleville)
- Information: 734-461-1835

TEMPLIN'S NIGHT TERROR (Wyandotte)

Can you survive a trip back in time to revisit some of the things you fear most? The Wyandotte Jaycees dare you to brave creepy-crawlies, slimy-slitherers, and things that go bump in the night! Enter at your own risk!

- Admission: \$10 per person
- Dates: Oct. 16-19, 23-26, & 29-31
- Hours: Sun. & Thurs., 7-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.-midnight
- Location: 2050 Biddle
- Information: 734-286-5RIP (5747) □

Metroparks Offer Halloween Fun for Kids

Enjoy family-oriented fun this Halloween season at area Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

- **Tricks & Treats with Trolls** (Friday, October 24, 7 p.m., at the Nature Center of Metro Beach Metropark near Mt. Clemens) – Visit trick-or-treat "discovery stations" to search for signs and clues of trolls and other Halloween creatures of the night. The journey ends at the campfire with cider and donuts. For children ages 7 and older, accompanied by an adult; no younger siblings. Fee: \$4 per child. Preregistration required. For more information or to register, call 586-463-4332.
- **Trick-or-Treat at the Farm** (Saturday, October 25, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Farm Center at Wolcott Mill Metropark in Ray Township) – Dress in your favorite Halloween costume to trick-or-treat at the farm. Stop at each of the farm buildings and wander through the slightly haunted "Boo Barn" to collect treats, and scramble for candy hidden in a pile of straw. Afterward, watch a Halloween movie with cider and donuts.

Fee: \$5 per child. Pumpkins will be available for sale. For further information, call 586-752-5932.

- **Naturally it's Howl'Oween** (Saturday, October 25, 1 p.m., at the Nature Center of Stony Creek Metropark, near Rochester/Utica) – Wear your costume when you come to enjoy an afternoon of games/crafts and an opportunity to learn about and see some of Halloween's spookiest live owls and slithery snakes. Fee: \$4 per child, \$2 per adult. Preregistration required. For more information or to register, call 586-781-9113 or 1-800-477-7756.
- **Tots' Halloween Fun** (Sunday, October 26, 1 p.m., at the Nature Center at Metro Beach Metropark near Mt. Clemens) – Children ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult, will discover fun facts about pumpkins and Halloween through stories, activities and crafts. Snacks and cider will be part of the fun. Fee: \$4 per child. Preregistration required. For further information or to register, call either 586-463-4332 or 1-800-477-3172. Visit www.metroparks.com for info. □

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Car Show Raises \$700 for Animal Shelter



On behalf of the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund, City Councilman Bill Wadsworth (second from left) accepted a check for \$735 from Romulus Auto Supply proprietor Doug O'Leary (third). The money was raised last month during the annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival car show, which O'Leary co-organized along with (from left) Pat and Lynn Ostrowski (Blue Sky Ice Cream and Hamburgers), Paul Filek (Family Hair Shop), and Chuck Finch.

RHS Beats Robichaud for Homecoming Win

A 14-12 victory over the Robichaud Bulldogs was the highlight of Romulus High School's 2008 Homecoming, held September 29-October 4.

The annual celebration featured "school spirit" events like dress-up days and a pep rally.

The Homecoming Parade, which wound through downtown Romulus before Friday's game, included colorful floats created by the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes in keeping with this year's theme: "Island Paradise." All were creative, with elements like sand castles, grass huts, and primitive natives, but the sophomores' "Blaze the Bulldogs" volcano entry was deemed the winner of the float competition.

During the game's halftime program, the junior class was awarded the coveted Spirit Jug, and seniors Gary Nemeth and Kanaya Williams were crowned Homecoming King and Queen. The royal couple were chosen by their classmates from a court that also included Cody Barnes, Filmore Bouldes, Rodney Co-field, and Demetrius Price, as well as Melissa Dufore, Brianna Grover, Tanesha Hill-Harris, and Mary Ann Watts.

Robert McLachlan, Student Government co-advisor, reported that Saturday's Homecoming Dance at RHS was a sellout, with 500 tickets purchased. Students enjoyed good food and music against a backdrop of island-themed decorations. *For photos, see page 6.* □

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Garden for the Hungry Yields 70# Melon



A 70-pound watermelon was part of a bumper crop raised this summer by Francis Kashat, proprietor of Metro House of Liquor (7099 Wayne Road, at Ecorse Road) in Romulus. Each year, Kashat lovingly nurtures his garden, then gives away the fruits of his labor to those who are in need.

Mayor Alan Lambert's "Halloween Party"



Saturday, October 25, 2008
7:00 pm to 12:00 am

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RHS Homecoming 2008



Romulus High School's annual Homecoming Parade featured floats created by each class in keeping with this year's theme, "Island Paradise." The sophomore class entry, pictured above, won the float competition. *Photo by R. E. Kadam*



Part of the Homecoming game's halftime program included the crowning of Queen Kanaya Williams and King Gary Nemeth. *Photo by Ryan McLachlan*



Getting together at the Homecoming Dance were this year's Court members: (from left) front - Cody Barnes, Gary Nemeth, Demetrius Price, and Rodney Cofield; back - Filmore Bouldes, Mary Ann Watts, Brianna Grover, Kanaya Williams, Melissa Dufore, and Tanesha Hill-Harris. *Photo by Lasting Images*

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Taylor Fall Fun Fest



Hayrides were among the many family-friendly, free activities at Taylor's annual Fall Fun Fest, held at Heritage Park on October 11.



In the park's historical log cabin, folks could dip their own caramel apples for just \$1 each.



Five-year-old Samantha Fyfe of Taylor put her budding-artist's hands to creative use at the free pumpkin-decorating event. Photos by Dave Gorgon

MVP

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Taylor Named "Clean City of the Year"

continued from page 1

Taylor's fleet is one of a long list of green initiatives in which the City has embarked. Mayor Cameron G. Priebe was the first Wayne County mayor to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits Taylor to taking deliberate action to combat global warming. He praised the efforts of the DPW and especially Mach, who implemented natural gas vehicles in the City fleet "before other municipalities were even thinking about it."

"Taylor is proud to be a leader in green initiatives," said Mayor Priebe. "We have begun a process of implementing several programs and projects designed to save the environment. Our city's vehicle fleet is a great example of our commitment to climate protection."

Taylor's other green initiatives include:

- The City has preserved more than 700 acres of green space within its park system, which includes a historical village, fishing pond, untouched natural forest (located between Heritage Park and Wayne County Community College District), and neighborhood parks located throughout the city.
- Taylor Meadows and Lakes of Taylor golf courses were created in 1989 and 1993, respectively, to preserve green space, provide recreational opportunities, and eliminate flooding problems in adjacent neighborhoods by providing retention basins which double as water features. In addition, the preservation of natural wetlands at both golf courses and the re-use of captured storm water in golf course irrigation encourage natural wildlife habitats.

Making a Difference

continued from page 1

Cory Elementary answered the challenge by planning a "One Day" service project to spruce up their school's grounds. On Saturday, September 27, they cleaned, painted, and gardened all around the outside play areas, assisted by staff members and parents.

"The students did an amazing job putting together their plans for a great day of service," said AmeriCorps VISTA member Becca Lewis. "Teachers used both the actual service project and lesson plans provided by The LEAGUE to help students understand the significance of what they're doing and why. Plus, by logging our results online with those of other schools nationwide, we'll get to see the true power of working, and serving, as one."

Created by a consortium of business, education, government, media, nonprofit leaders, and youth, The LEAGUE empowers students to "get in the game" of giving by providing free resources for teachers to engage students in making a positive difference in their community and world. To find out more about The LEAGUE, visit www.theleague.org. □

- The Economic Development Department is working with businesses to encourage environmentally friendly development. In fact, the first "green" roof has been approved by the Taylor Planning Commission.
- As a green initiative, the City allows for building permit savings within its fee schedule, including a reduction of plan review fees based on the percentage of energy-efficient development and materials, in conjunction with H.E.R.S., the Home Energy Rating System.
- Policies have been implemented to reduce sprawl through brownfield redevelopment and land conservancy.
- The City is studying the establishment of wind farms to generate enough electricity to supply the needs of city buildings. Currently, tests are being performed with two 150-foot towers. If they prove that wind power is feasible in Taylor, the City could have a new source of electricity.
- The use of energy-saving lighting and the dialing-down of thermostats to improve efficiency of city buildings has resulted in significant savings.
- In 2006, Ford Motor Company, BP, and the City of Taylor marked an important milestone on the road to the widespread use of alternative fuels by opening a hydrogen fueling station on the grounds of the Taylor Department of Public Works. The cities of Taylor and Ann Arbor, the Wayne County Airport Authority, and Ford Motor Company utilize the Taylor station to fuel hydrogen powered vehicles.
- The institution of recycling centers in areas throughout the city has increased residential and business recycling.
- The City of Taylor has planted 1,000+ trees within the past two years to maintain and expand the urban forest.
- Each year, the Taylor Compost Facility on Racho Road produces more than 20,000 cubic yards of high-quality compost, which is made available to local residents and businesses.
- An annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day has been held for 11 consecutive years.
- The City is installing energy-saving LED traffic lights throughout the community. The lights are timed for efficient vehicle travel, which improves gas mileage and reduces pollution from carbon emissions.
- City officials are exploring ways to use alternative energy in positive ways at facilities such as the two City-owned golf courses and the Heritage Park Petting Farm. The Petting Farm, located at Northline and Pardee roads, could receive solar power and be the site of wind generation and a bio-heating system that would burn wood chips generated at the City's compost site. The additions would create energy, further reduce costs, and provide a source of education for visiting children. □

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3rd Grade 6 Spaces Available

4th Grade 2 Spaces Available

5th Grade 8 Spaces Available

Miller Elementary School

1st Grade 5 Spaces Available

2nd Grade No Vacancy

3rd Grade 5 Spaces Available

4th Grade No Vacancy

5th Grade No Vacancy

Renton Junior High

6th Grade 5 Spaces Available

7th Grade No Vacancy

8th Grade No Vacancy

Huron High School

9th Grade 5 Spaces Available

10th Grade No Vacancy

11th Grade 5 Spaces Available

12th Grade 5 Spaces Available



Applications will be accepted, and are available, at the
Huron School District Administration Building,
32044 Huron River Drive, New Boston, MI 48164,
from Monday, October 13, through Friday, October 31, 2008.
For more information, please call 734-782-2441.

Please note: First priority will be given to Huron students who have moved out of the district. Second priority will be given to siblings of current students. Third priority will be a random lottery.

Students who have been suspended or expelled within the past two years will NOT be considered for placement.

Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 24.

Belleville

Harvest Fest

Belleville's Harvest Fest – set for Saturday, October 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. – will feature free family fun at the museum, library, and 4th Street parking lot.

Museum events and exhibits will include dulcimer music, a nickel dig (2 p.m.), a scavenger hunt, folded-paper crafts, an old-fashioned game table, quilting, rug beating, corn shelling, and a scrub-board laundry.

At the library will be a petting farm and pony rides (12 to 3 p.m.), music by Fiddlers ReStrung (1 to 2 p.m.), Indian corn jewelry, corn-husk dolls, butter churning, candle dipping, ink stamping, soap carving, leaf rubbing, and apple dipping.

Be sure to visit the artist workshop on 4th Street, as well.

Explore Your Family Tree

Discover your family roots with genealogist Ginger Bruder through this free program, to be offered at the Fred C. Fischer Library (167 Fourth Street) at 7 p.m. each Wednesday from October 22 through November 12.

Advance registration is required.

For information, call 734-699-3291.

Kenya Adventure

Dee Crowe will share photos and stories from Kenya at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, at the Fred C. Fischer Library (167 Fourth Street).

For information about this free program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, call 734-699-3291.

Huron Township

Fall Flea Market

A Fall Flea Market to be held at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street, New Boston) will feature antiques, collectibles, furniture, and much, much more.

The flea market will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, October 23, through Saturday, October 25.

For information, call 734-753-9048.

Trunk-N-Treat Party

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street, New Boston) is hosting a Trunk-N-Treat Party at 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 26. Bring your family (dressed in church-appropriate costumes) and trick-or-treat around the parking lot.

Walking tacos will be served.

For information, call 734-753-9048.

Romulus

Daddy/Daughter Dance

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation will hold its annual Daddy/Daughter Sweetheart Dance from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22, in the cafeteria at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road).

Tickets for this immensely popular event *must* be purchased in advance.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Children's Craft Programs

Youngsters are invited to sign up for one or more of the following one-day craft programs, which will be offered by the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

- **Halloween** (October 25),
- **Thanksgiving** (November 15), and
- **Christmas Tree Trim** (December 6).

Although there is no charge to participate, advance registration is requested.

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Spooktacular Party

Dress up in your favorite costume (and maybe win a prize for the best dressed!) at a Spooktacular Party sponsored by the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation. Attractions will include games, "bouncies," and a parade. Each child will receive a candy bag and a snack, and will also make a craft to take home.

The event will be held at Historical Park (Hunt Street, near the post office, in downtown Romulus) on Saturday, October 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, October 26.)

Cost is \$5 per adult/child couple, plus \$3 for each additional child. Preregister at the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road) by 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 21.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books planned for future discussions include:

- **A River Runs Through It** by Norman Maclean (November 10).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Hypnotherapy for Weight Loss

A one-day hypnotherapy session for weight reduction will be held at the Romulus Recreation Building (11189 Shook Road) from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 22.

Cost is \$25 for both residents and non-residents. Deadline for registration is Thursday, November 20.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Grief Support Group

A free grief-recovery support group meets at Romulus Wesleyan Church (37300 Goddard Road, at Huron River Drive) each Sunday at 9 a.m. and each Wednesday at 7 p.m.

For information, call 734-941-1511.

continued on page 10

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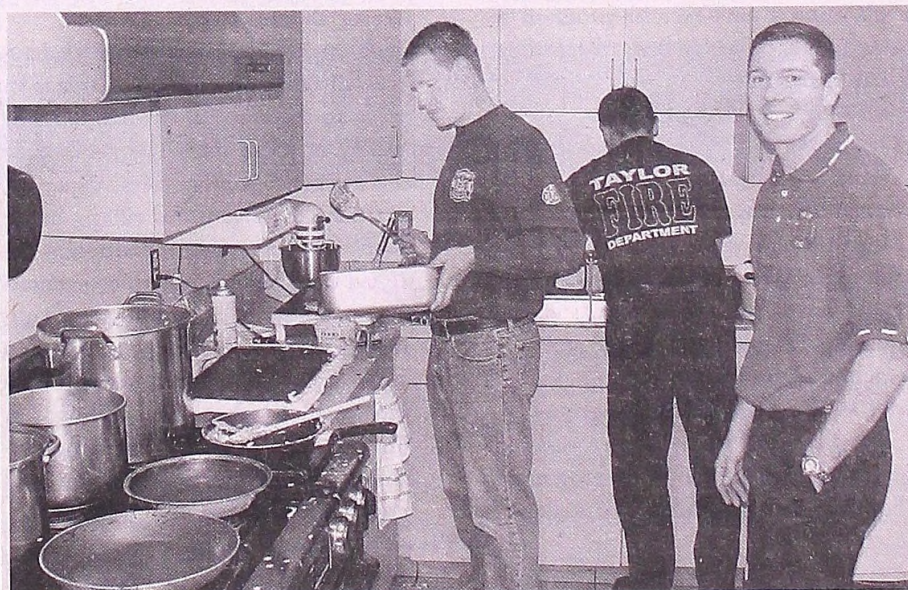
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Taylor Firefighters Flip Free Flapjacks



Highlights of Taylor's Fire Prevention Week program included a free pancake breakfast prepared and served by City firefighters at Fire Station #2. Captain Fire Inspector Jesse Kriebel (right), who coordinated the Firehouse Flapjacks event on October 11, supervised the kitchen, where Fire Medic Dennis Marshall (left) and Sergeant Tim Bell did the dirty work. Photo by Dave Gorgon

Sassy Seniors

For information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate center.

Romulus

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Meeting Will Explain Switch to Digital Television

If you don't own a digital TV, and you currently receive programming with the help of "rabbit ears" or a rooftop antenna, you should be aware of an important broadcasting change that will take effect in February 2009. Marianna from Mayor Alan Lambert's office and Mike from the City's Cable Department will be coming to the Center on Tuesday, October 21, to explain this change, which could leave you without television reception if you're not prepared. (Call for further details on meeting time, etc.)

Among the solutions that will be discussed is the installation of a converter box. Romulus senior citizens who are considering this option may pick up a discount coupon at the Center.

Halloween Luncheon

The Romulus Senior Center will celebrate Halloween with a frightfully fun luncheon on Tuesday, October 21, at 12:30 p.m. Highlights of the event will include a costume contest, with prizes awarded in three categories: "funniest," "most colorful," and "favorite."

Cost for the event is \$4. Advance registration is required.

"Wii" Have Fun at the Senior Center!

Get moving and have a good time doing it by playing "virtual" bowling, golf, and tennis games on the Senior Center's Wii system.

Those who like to get their exercise in a more traditional manner can visit the Center's workout room and/or join the walking club, which meets Fridays at 1 p.m.

Note: The Center strongly urges anyone planning a new exercise program to consult his/her physician before beginning.

Regular Programs

Free or low-cost programs offered weekly at the Senior Center include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 1 p.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.), and
- walking club (Fridays, 1 p.m.).

Center Is Source for Help Programs

The Romulus Senior Center serves as a pickup spot for the following programs:

- liquid nutrition (second Wednesday of each month, 9 a.m.),
- commodities (third Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), and
- Focus: HOPE (begins the third Thursday and continues through the end of each month, 10 a.m.).

For information about eligibility for these and other help programs, call the Center.

Hot Lunches Warm Cool Afternoons

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. weekdays (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25. This month's menu includes turkey, BBQ beef ribettes, roast beef, meatloaf, chili, mac & cheese, veggie lasagna, and seafood salad.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation.

Taylor

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Flu/Pneumonia Shots

Oakwood Hospital will be at the Ford Senior Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, to administer flu and pneumonia shots *by appointment only*.

Cost for seniors without a Medicare card: \$25 for flu, \$40 for pneumonia.

Halloween Birthday Bash

If you were born in October, and are 55 or older, you won't want to miss the Center's next Birthday Bash, set for Thursday, October 30, from 1 to 3 p.m. Come dressed in your favorite costume to compete for a prize. A small prize will also be given to everyone who brings in a pair of new socks. Cake, ice cream, and karaoke will be among the day's other attractions.

Preregister for this free program by Monday, October 27. No children, please.

Special Trips

For more information about these and other special trips, call the Center.

- **Calder's Dairy Farm & Country Store** (Monday, October 27. \$2 cost covers transportation, a tour of the dairy farm and store, and ice cream. Lunch at China Buffet is not included. Bus departs at noon and returns about 4 p.m.)
- **Greektown Casino** (Thursday, November 20. \$10 covers transportation and a \$15 voucher that can be used for food or money. Bus departs at 9 a.m. and returns about 4 p.m.).
- **24th Annual Festival of Trees** (Wednesday, November 26. \$6 covers transportation to the Festival of Trees, a public display of more than 100 professionally designed holiday trees, vignettes, an elaborate gingerbread village, hand-made wall hangings, individually designed wreaths and centerpieces, entertainment for all ages, fun-filled children's activities, photos with Santa, a festive gift shop, and a Secret Santa Shop just for kids, and more! Lunch at Silver Spoons in Allen Park is not included. Bus departs at 11:30 a.m. and returns about 4 p.m.).

Ping-Pong Tournament

Humana Marketpoint Insurance will sponsor a ping-pong tournament at the Center on Friday, October 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Trophies will be awarded for first place. Pizza and pop will be available for participants.

Advance sign-up is required. □

Community Calendar

continued from page 9

Taylor

"Haunted Luau" Benefits Conservatory Foundation

A haunted luau to be held at Crystal Gardens Banquet Center (16703 Fort Street, Southgate) from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, will benefit the Taylor Conservatory Foundation. Highlights of the event will include a Hawaiian pig roast with island-style side dishes, an open bar, live and silent auctions, a performance by Ballet Americana's award-winning Polynesian dancers, and a costume parade – all in a spooktacular setting!

Costumes or casual attire okay.

For information, or to purchase tickets (\$75, \$50 of which is tax deductible), call 734-942-1184.

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Beautification Contest

The City of Taylor Beautification Commission is seeking nominees for beautification awards for residences and businesses. This year, a third category has been added for apartment complexes. The committee wants to honor those who help make the city a beautiful place to live and work.

To nominate someone, contact Michele McNeely at 734-374-1449 or mmcneely@ci.taylor.mi.us. Property address required.

Van Buren Township

Van Buren Township Parks & Recreation Department, in cooperation with the American & Korean Tae Kwon Do Schools, will present the 22nd Annual Haunted Forest at Van Buren Township Park (South I-94 Service Drive, east of Rawsonville Road).

The Haunted Forest at Van Buren Park will be open Friday and Saturday evenings (October 24, 25, 31, and November 1) between 8 and 11 p.m. This event is not recommended for small children.

Cost of admission is \$8 (\$7 with valid school identification); group-rate tickets will be available for advance purchase starting October 20.

The Haunted Forest is in need of dedicated volunteers to "haunt" and help set up the event. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For information, call the Recreation Department at 734-699-8921. □

Courthouse Renamed in Judges' Honor

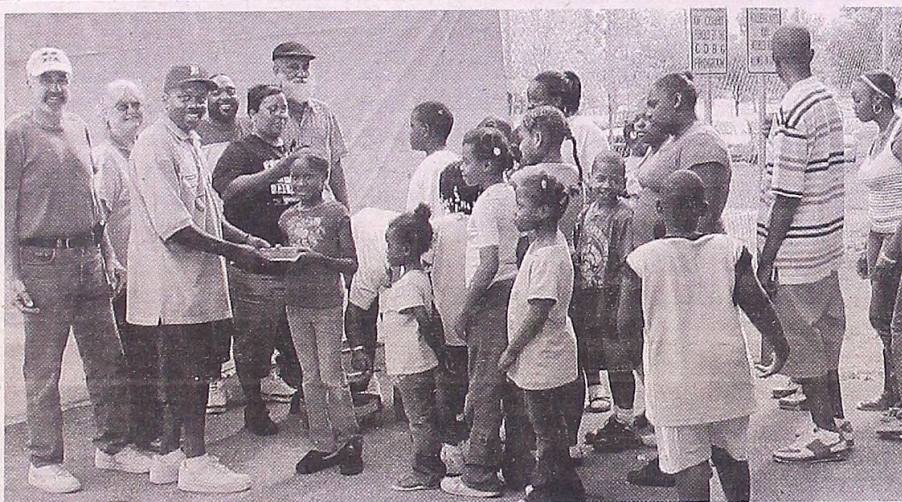


(From left) Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe (right) was proud to stand with Judge Anthony Nicita (left) and Judge William J. Sutherland before the newly rechristened Nicita and Sutherland Courthouse in Taylor. The 23rd District Court building's name change was suggested by Priebe and unanimously approved by the Taylor City Council in July. Last month, brand-new lettering was added to the top of the majestic building to commemorate the 32 years that Nicita and Sutherland served together in the Taylor judiciary. Priebe said the judges' names have long been synonymous with Taylor, so it is only fitting that the court be named in their honor. Photo by Dave Gorgon

Around Romulus



John Hlinak (center) of the Romulus Police Department was promoted to Sergeant on October 13, 2008. Among those attending a brief swearing-in ceremony were (from left) Public Safety Director Charles Kirby, Mayor Alan R. Lambert, Deputy Chief Michael St. Andre, and Deputy Chief Michael Coffey. *Photo by R. E. Kadau*



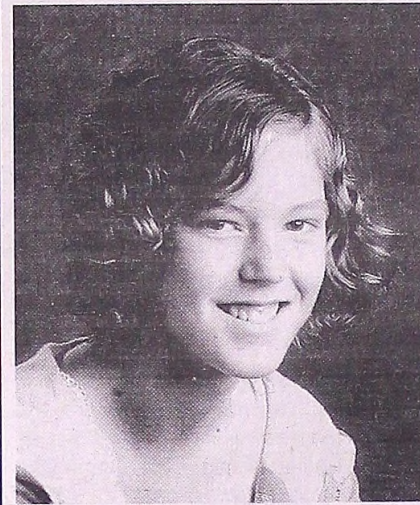
A second annual Family Fun Day, hosted by Edmond and Julia Martin and Michael Warren, was held at Fernandez Park in Romulus. City Councilman Harry Crout, Board of Education Trustee Sandy Crout, and American Progressive Association president Bronson Bell were among those who helped with activities.



Among those attending the official kickoff of "Project Fit America" at Barth Elementary School on September 23 were: (from left) "Hooper" (Detroit Pistons mascot), "Roary" (Detroit Lions mascot), Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom (Michigan Surgeon General), "Paws" (Detroit Tigers mascot), Skylar Murray (Barth sixth-grader/student speaker), Nancy Gray (chief development officer, Oakwood Foundation), and Sheila Stasak (physical education instructor, Barth). Project Fit America is a national public charity that works with schools to promote children's fitness by providing funding, equipment, and teacher training. *Photo by R. E. Kadau*

Happy Birthday!

Arika Montgomery Is Sweet Sixteen



Arika Montgomery

Vonda Wilks (Addison, MI) and Wiley Montgomery (Romulus, MI) are concerned for the safety of their friends! That's because their daughter, Arika Montgomery, turns 16 on October 17, and will be receiving her driver's license. Please get off the road if you see Arika coming!

Seriously, Arika's family – including her Pop and Nan, former Romulus residents Robert and Betty Wilks – is very proud of her. The all-A student at Addison High School is a member of the Student Council, Newspaper Club, softball team, and golf team. She also serves at her church, teaching the younger children and helping in the nursery.

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday, Arika! □

Beatrice Lawrence Celebrates a Century

Congratulations to Beatrice (McIntyre) Lawrence of Romulus, Michigan, whose 100th birthday was October 13, 2008.

The centenarian celebrated the event at Romulus Community Baptist Church on October 11, when more than 170 family members and friends turned out to show their love and respect for her.

Lawrence – whose father was born into slavery, and emancipated at the age of seven – is a native of Tifton County, Georgia. The wife of Wesley Lawrence, Sr., and mother of four (one son and three daughters) also raised twin nieces from the time they were two years old. She has numerous grand-, great-grand-, and great-great-grandchildren.

Danice (McIntyre) Carter, one of the nieces whom Lawrence raised, said that her aunt/mother has always been known for her generosity and kindness to everyone.

"That's why there were so many people there to celebrate her birthday," said Carter. "In her 100 years, she has touched the lives



Beatrice Lawrence
Photo by R. E. Kadau

of countless others, and all have been the better for it." □

Obituary

Ruth E. Sloan

Ruth E. Sloan of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, October 2, 2008, at the age of 79.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born on Thursday, October 11, 1928.

Ruth – mother of five children – also raised several of her grandchildren. Her grand-, great-grand-, and great-great-grandchildren brought her much joy.

A former member of the Order of the Eastern Star (Belleville, MI), she was also involved with the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, earning a 10-year pin.

Ruth is survived by 2 daughters, Joanne C. Smith (Milan, MI) and Ruth G.

Sloan (Romulus); 5 grandchildren, Melissa, Tammy, Angie, Donna, and Joseph, Jr.; 5 great-grandchildren, James, Megan, Raymond, Justin, and Somer Ruth; and a great-great-grandchild, Hayleigh.

Among those who preceded her in passing were her husband, James W. Sloan, Sr.; 3 sons, Joseph D., Robert L., and James W. Sloan, Jr.; and her parents, James and Grace M. (Hocksteadt) Morrow.

A funeral service was held on Monday, October 6, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Brother Edward Dunford (Church of Jesus Christ) officiating. Hillside Cemetery (Belleville) was the site of interment. □

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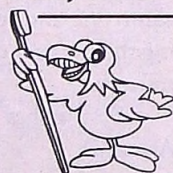
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